

March 5, 2007

Testimony in SUPPORT of Raised Bill 7161

An Act Revising the Definition of Advanced Nursing Practice

Honorable Senator Handley, Representative Sayers, and members of the
Public Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present on Raised Bill 7161. My name is Katherine Steven. I am a pediatric nurse practitioner representing the Connecticut division of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP). We support the proposed bill. Changing the definition of collaboration better reflects actual practice and will eliminate significant barriers to care for citizens of Connecticut.

We agree with our colleagues in the Connecticut Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses that the mandatory collaborative agreement has become a barrier for patient care. Deleting the agreement will not change patient care, since the agreements do not address how we deal with individual patients. Our organization believes strongly in working collaboratively with physicians and other healthcare providers. Thus, we do not believe that the change in language will change our practice in the care of children.

Studies have consistently demonstrated that nurse practitioners deliver excellent care. It is now time to allow all of them to practice and better serve the citizens of the state of Connecticut. Patient access to care is a real problem, and this bill directly helps to increase access to safe, effective and uninterrupted care. Thank you.

Katherine Steven, MPH, MSN, APRN
9A Talcott Glen Road
Farmington, CT 06032